AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) ~~An emulsion for thermal recording material to be used as a material of a~~ A resin component for a protective layer of ~~the~~ a thermal recording material,

~~said emulsion~~ comprising resin particles (B) having a glass transition temperature greater than 0°C and less than or equal to 60°C ~~less than 60ºC and more than 0ºC, or of 60ºC~~, and a copolymer resin (A) prepared by copolymerizing (a) methacrylamide and (b) a vinyl monomer having a carboxyl group; and

said resin particles (B) being prepared by polymerizing (c) a vinyl monomer with said copolymer resin (A) so that the copolymer (A) is distributed ~~essentially~~ substantially on the surfaces of the resin particles (B).

2. (Currently amended) The ~~emulsion for thermal recording material according to~~ resin component of claim 1, which comprises resin particles (B) prepared by polymerizing (c) a vinyl monomer in the presence of a copolymer resin (A) obtained by making water-soluble, with a base, a copolymer resin (A) prepared by copolymerizing a monomer mixture containing (a) methacrylamide and (b) a vinyl monomer having a carboxyl group.

3. (Currently amended) The ~~emulsion for thermal recording material according to~~ resin component of claim 1, wherein the glass transition temperature of the resin particles (B) is 4°C to 60°C.

4. (Currently amended) The ~~emulsion for thermal recording material according to~~ resin component of claim 1, wherein the glass transition temperature of the resin particles (B) is 4°C to 38°C.

5. (Currently amended) ~~An emulsion for thermal recoding material to be used as a material of a~~ A resin component for a protective layer of ~~the~~ a thermal recording material,

~~said emulsion~~ comprising resin particles (B) having a glass transition temperature greater than 0°C and less than or equal to 60°C ~~less than 60°C and more than 0°C, or of 60°C~~, and prepared by polymerizing (c) a vinyl monomer in the presence of a copolymer resin (A) obtained by making water-soluble, with a base, a copolymer resin (A) prepared by copolymerizing a monomer mixture containing (a) methacrylamide and (b) a vinyl monomer having a carboxyl group.

6. (Currently amended) The resin component of ~~emulsion for thermal recording material according to~~ claim 5, wherein 30 to 95 parts by weight of the methacrylamide (a) and 2 to 50 parts by weight of the carboxyl group-containing vinyl monomer (b) are contained in 100 parts by weight of the solid content of the monomer mixture.

7. (Currently amended) The resin component of ~~emulsion for thermal recording material according to~~ claim 5, wherein the vinyl monomer (c) contains a nitrile group-containing vinyl monomer or an aromatic vinyl monomer.

8. (Currently amended) The resin component of ~~emulsion for thermal recording material according to~~ claim 5, wherein the amount of the copolymer resin (A) is 20 to 200 parts by weight when the total amount of the vinyl monomer (c) is 100 parts by weight.

9. (Currently amended) The resin component of ~~emulsion for thermal recording material according to~~ claim 5, wherein the glass transition temperature of the resin particles (B) is 4°C to 60°C.

10. (Currently amended) The resin component of ~~emulsion for thermal recording material according to~~ claim 5, wherein the glass transition temperature of the resin particles (B) is 4°C to 38°C.

11. (Currently amended) A process for producing ~~an emulsion for thermal recording material to be used as a material of~~ a resin component for a protective layer of ~~the~~ a thermal recording material comprising:

a step of copolymerizing a monomer mixture containing (a) methacrylamide and (b) a vinyl monomer having a carboxyl group, to obtain a copolymer resin, and

a step of treating the copolymer resin with a base to convert it into a water-soluble copolymer resin (A) and then polymerizing (c) a vinyl monomer in the

presence of the copolymer resin (A), to obtain resin particles (B), said particles (B) having a glass transition temperature greater than 0°C and less than or equal to 60°C ~~less than 60°C and more than 0°C, or of 60°C~~.

12. (Currently amended) The process for producing ~~an emulsion for thermal recording material according to~~ a resin component of claim 11, wherein 30 to 95 parts by weight of the ~~methacylamide~~ methacrylamide (a) and 2 to 50 parts by weight of the carboxyl group-containing vinyl monomer (b) are contained in 100 parts by weight of the solid content of the monomer mixture.

13. (Currently amended) The process for producing ~~an emulsion for thermal recording material according to~~ a resin component of claim 11, wherein the vinyl monomer (c) contains a nitrile group-containing vinyl monomer or an aromatic vinyl monomer.

14. (Currently amended) The process for producing ~~an emulsion for thermal recording material according to~~ a resin component of claim 11, wherein the amount of the copolymer resin (A) is 20 to 200 parts by weight when the total amount of the vinyl monomer (c) is 100 parts by weight.

15. (Currently amended) The process for producing ~~an emulsion for thermal recording material according to~~ a resin component of claim 11, wherein the glass transition temperature of the resin particles (B) is 4°C to 60°C.

16. (Currently amended) The process for producing ~~an emulsion for thermal recording material according to~~ a resin component of claim 11, wherein the glass transition temperature of the resin particles (B) is 4°C to 38°C.

17. (Currently amended) A thermal recording material comprising a substrate, a thermal ~~recoding~~ recording layer formed thereon, and protective layer formed on the thermal ~~recoding~~ recording layer and/or on the back side of the substrate, wherein the resin component of the protective layer is ~~obtained from the emulsion~~ the resin component of claim 1.

18. (Currently amended) A thermal recording material comprising a substrate, a thermal ~~recoding~~ recording layer formed thereon, and a protective layer formed on the thermal recording layer and/or on the back side of the substrate, wherein the resin component of the protective layer is ~~obtained from the emulsion~~ the resin component of claim 5.